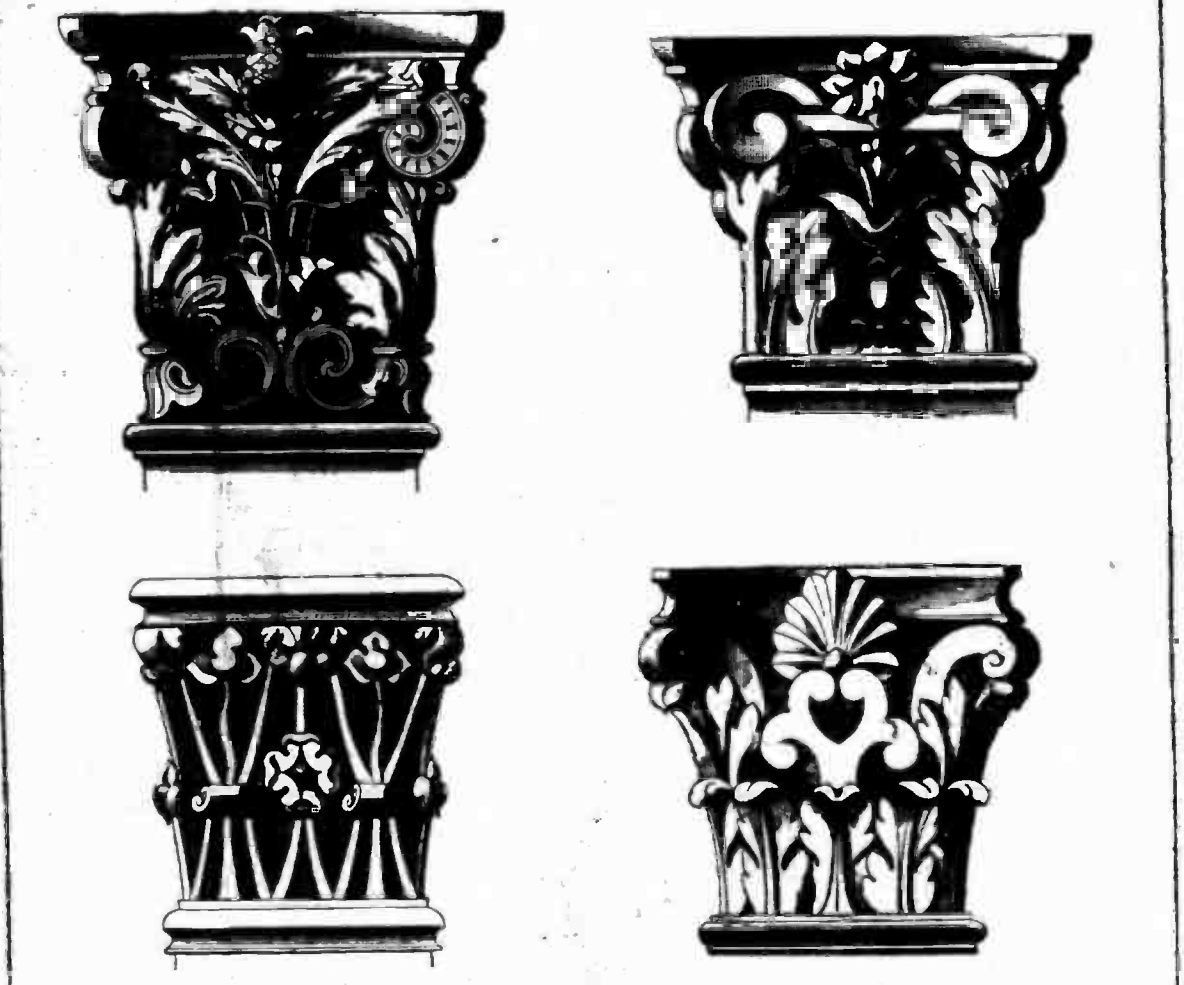
CARVED CAPITALS FROM PARIS.



the banging of bells give a useful caution. He says, justly, "If, in the course of years, as will be the case, the frame should vibrate or get ricketty, it should not be made steady by putting wedges between the beam-ends and the walls, as is commonly done by inexperienced workmen, but it may be easily stiffened by driving hard oak or iron wedges in at the backs of the tenons of the *braces*, in the mortices in the cill pieces. The construction of the timbers or cage of St. Paul's, London, may be taken as a good example of banging heavy bells in a belfrey. The timbers should always be laid on wooden plates, the whole resting either on stone corbels or on a set-off formed in the wall. It is not the downward pressure from the weight of metal, but the lateral pressure or vibration caused by the motion of the bells, which does the mischief, especially if any of the timbers are let into the walls or touch them laterally. To avoid this, a well-constructed cage is trussed and braced diagonally with most substantial timbers, the weight of the whole, if properly rested on corbels or set-offs, keeps it steady. The higher the bells are placed in the tower, the more does the vibration caused by ringing them affect the masonry."——The Bristol High Cross is standing still at present, the steps alone being completed, and the hoarding removed. But it is understood that the carving is to be proceeded with during the winter months, ready to begin setting in the spring. A joking report, that a statue of the present mayor was to surmount the monument instead of the cross has called forth a denial from the honorary secretary to the committee for carrying out the project.——We are glad to hear that a subscription is being made for a testimonial to Mr. Haberfield, now mayor for the sixth time. Without doubt a considerable sum will be raised, and we will venture to suggest a mode of applying it. Mr. Haberfield does not want plate, and a picture is ephemeral. Now, Mr. Haberfield feels great interest in the restoration of St. Mary Redcliffe Church; and what we suggest is, that the committee who are managing the testimonial fund should take some distinct portion of that building, and make that a monument to his memory for all time. The tower and spire would perhaps be too much for them, but let them take the south porch, thereafter to be called the "Haberfield Porch," and the worthy mayor would go down to posterity side by side with the noble individual, whoever he may be (and no one in Bristol seems to have the slightest knowledge of this fact), who, under the signature of "*Nil Desperandum*," is munificently providing funds for the restoration of the *north* porch, one of the finest specimens of the Decorated style in the world.——The Canynge Society have determined on next commencing the restoration of the south transept of the church, because of its containing the tomb of the founder. Drawings and specifications are to be prepared forthwith.——The approaches and thoroughfares of Bristol much require improvement. A general plan should be forthwith laid down by the corporation, even if it were carried out but gradually. There is a great future before Bristol: let those who have the management of affairs there properly prepare for it.

STONE CAPITALS FROM PARIS.

The Parisians have long been distinguished for their imaginative faculties in design, and their contempt of established rules, whether architectural or decorative, when opposed to elegance and novelty. The modern domestic architecture of the French metropolis, to which upon other occasions we have alluded, affords ample illustration of this facility of invention on the part of our continental neighbours. The stone fronts of most of the new houses in Paris are more or less elaborately enriched with sculpture in relief (a matter of surprise to those who are not aware of the ease with which the stone of the locality is worked, and the cheapness of both mechanical and artistic labour), composed of arabesque ornaments, chiefly of the "Renaissance" style, with the occasional introduction of figures. These house-fronts, however, are by no means imitations of old French or Italian erections, but are simply adaptations of the style of the 16th century to the requirements of the 19th. Even the shop-fronts and carriage gateways of Paris present many features of graceful and original treatment, particularly exemplified in the capitals of columns or pilasters supporting doorways or windows. Of these we select a few for illustration. Others, which abound in the more recently formed streets, afford an almost unbounded diversity of composition, and much material for the student's note-book.

The Collegiate Institution, Liverpool.—Mr. H. C. Pidgeon, Secretary of the Liverpool Academy, last week gave two lectures here on the Principles of the Fine Arts, in continuation of Mr. Bishop's course on Perspective. After pointing out the general importance of the fine arts as a branch of education, and explaining the rise and progress of art, Mr. Pidgeon proceeded to give the history of a picture in its various stages, beginning with the choice of the subject, which he described as a most important point, as on it greatly depend the chances of the finished work.

To learn about OCR and PDF Compression go to our website